

NSC BRIEFING - *Morocco*

Prospects Dim for New Program of Resident General Lacoste

1. The New Resident General:

A. Arrival French Morocco 14 June newly appointed Resident

General Francis Lacoste opens new but difficult chapter  
French-Moroccan relations.

B. Inherits bitter legacy of hate and distrust left by two  
military predecessors.

C. His replacement General Guillaume 20 May is attempt by  
Paris re-establish order and French-Moroccan co-operation  
after 9 months' anti-French terrorism.

D. Lacoste able career diplomat; long, wide experience,  
including Morocco. Served as number two man French  
Residency 1947-1950 under Marshal Juin.

E. Lacoste staunch advocate French presence Morocco, but'  
believed personally to favor more moderate policy.

Intelligence reports indicate he intends policy "iron  
hand in silken glove."

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**II Lacoste's Program:**

A. Lacoste program not yet fully delineated, but high French

Foreign Ministry official outlines following:

1. General lines long-term program to be announced

near future, but without specifying time factor or  
final Moroccan-French relationship.

2. Emphasis on Moroccan sovereignty and fact that

reforms last August only one step final goal.

3. French participation local government will decrease

as Moroccans show capacity greater responsibility.

4. No spectacular developments regarding change sultan

anticipated near future. Much-mentioned possibility

replacement present sultan, Moulay Arafa, with

second son ex-sultan, though would please some,

would also create new problems.

B. Lacoste recently conferred some elements Moroccan national-  
ists he invited Paris. Also reportedly drafted proposal granting  
<sup>clemency</sup> <sub>national-</sub>  
ist political detainees.

**III Prospects:**

A. Lacoste program as outlined does not indicate new, bold

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policy and unlikely to promote real settlement.

1. Too vague--no specific concessions yet indicated

2. Does not intend specify final Moroccan-French

relationship or time factor--both primary national-  
ist objectives.

3. Issue French participation; Moroccan government--

immediate cause ouster former sultan--will continue  
as major stumbling bloc to both nationalists and  
French settlers.

B. Local reaction Lacoste program provokes bitter opposition

both sides:

1. French veterans organization Casablanca distributed

50,000 leaflets condemning Lacoste's alleged instructions  
to release and negotiate nationalists as "criminal  
and treasonable."

2. On 12 June offices of veterans organization wrecked

by bombs.

3. El Glaoui, staunchly anti-nationalist Pasha Marrakech

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- principal native engineer sultan's deposition -

states that friends of France in Morocco will give Lacoste confidence if he does not bargain on clemency.

4. Report received 15 June indicate nationalists are implementing threat of crop burning, - burned 115 acres grain this past week.

C. American observers Morocco convinced drastic measures required if situation to be restored; agree minimum necessary -

1. Replacement sultan by someone acceptable Moroccan people.

2. Release nationalist political prisoners, as no others command respect Moroccan masses.

3. Direct contact with established nationalist leaders.